

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA*****eFile* Pilot Program for Chapter 7 Petitions Begins**

The Court's *eFile* program continues to break new barriers with the initiation of the pilot program in the Los Angeles and Riverside divisions for chapter 7 petitions. On August 18, 2003, the Court received its first electronic petition filing. The electronic petition mirrors the paper petition form, and allows filers to complete the required fields on-line. Filers using *eFile* are not required to submit any copies along with the electronic filing. After the Clerk's Office processes the petition, the attorney receives an e-mail notification containing a hyperlink to an electronic copy of the filed petition. The program is expected to be made available district-wide sometime this fall.

In addition to the chapter 7 petition pilot program, *eFile* currently supports electronic submission of motions for relief from stay (350PP [Personal Property], 350RP [Real Property], and 350UD [Unlawful Detainer]) and complaints. Attorneys must register with the Court to use *eFile*. The on-line registration takes less than ten minutes to complete. To register or learn more about *eFile*, go to <<http://efile.cacb.uscourts.gov>>. Valid credit card information is required at registration for the future payment of applicable filing fees incurred for electronic filings. All Central District bankruptcy judges are participating in the *eFile* program. Attorney participation in *eFile* continues to increase. There are presently more than 300 attorneys registered to use *eFile*. Filings made via *eFile* are also on the rise. In the four weeks ending September 7, 2003, 365 (37%) motions for relief from stay in the district were filed through *eFile*.

The Court's *eFile* support staff can arrange to visit your office to help you and your staff get started using the system. Please call the *eFile* Support Center during business hours (Monday through Friday, 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.) at (213) 894-2365 to schedule an appointment or to have your *eFile* related questions answered.

Think of the possibilities when you have the ability to file documents with the Court 24 hours a day! This is a reality with *eFile*.

CIAO! Program Use Commences

The Italian term "ciao" can be used as an acknowledgment for either "hello" or "goodbye." CIAO! (Calendar Information and Orders) is also the acronym for the Court's new windows-based calendaring and order generation software developed by the Clerk's Office to replace existing programs. CIAO! is integrated with *eFile* (See article above) to enable electronically filed motions to be placed onto the judge's calendar, and orders from them to be served through the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC). The automatic service of conformed copies of orders (if the motion was filed via *eFile*) to the appropriate parties is an efficient and cost-effective process for everyone involved. Parties no longer are required to submit copies of orders and stamped, addressed envelopes for motions filed using *eFile*. CIAO! saves Clerk's Office time by eliminating the manual order conforming and mailing process. The program is currently in the pilot phase in the Los Angeles division and is scheduled to be fully operational in all divisions by the end of November 2003. Whether it is to say "hello" or "goodbye," CIAO! is certainly a step forward.

Privacy Requirements and New Bankruptcy Forms

Are you and your clients prepared for the implementation of the Judicial Conference's privacy policy that is set to take effect on December 1, 2003? At its September 2002 session, the Judicial Conference approved proposed amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (F.R.B.P.) and the Official Bankruptcy Forms which will implement the Judicial Conference's policy on privacy and public access to electronic files. The amendments to the F.R.B.P. will allow the court to collect a debtor's full Social Security number, but display only the last four digits. It should be noted that the policy is not retroactive and will not affect the availability of case files at the court or electronic access to court dockets through PACER.

Key changes related to the privacy amendments include:

- **The petition - Official Form 1**, will contain only the last four digits of individual debtors' Social Security numbers.
- **Amendments to Rule 1007** will require debtors to submit a verified statement containing the full nine-digit number. The mandatory verified statement will be "submitted" rather than "filed," and will not be part of the case file.
- **Amendments to Rule 2002** will require the court to include the debtor's full Social Security number in the copy of the §341(a) meeting of creditors notice sent to creditors, the debtor, the trustee, and the U.S. Trustee. The court's copy of the notice that is included in the case file will contain only the last four digits of the Social Security number. Subsequent court notices mailed to parties and the court's copies will also include only the last four digits.
- **Proof of Claim, Official Form 10**, will require a wage creditor to disclose only the last four digits of the creditor's Social Security number.
- **Filers, not the Clerk's Office**, will be responsible for redacting Social Security numbers and other personal identifiers such as dates of birth, financial account numbers, and names of minor children from documents filed with the court.

Amended forms will be available on the Court's web site prior to December 1, 2003.

Additional information regarding the new privacy requirements is available on the Federal Rulemaking page of the Judiciary's web site at <<http://www.uscourts.gov/rules/index.html>>. Click on "Pending Rules Amendments Awaiting Final Action," select "Amendments Submitted to the Congress (Mar. 2003)", and then click on "Bankruptcy Amendments."

New Chapter 13 Trustee Appointed

Effective August 1, 2003, Kathy A. Dockery assumed her new duties as a designated chapter 13 trustee for the Central District of California. She is one of two standing trustees who are appointed to chapter 13 cases in the Los Angeles Division. Ms. Dockery assumed the caseload from L. Charmayne Mills, Assistant U.S. Trustee, who served on an interim basis following the resignation of then standing trustee, Edwina Dowell. Ms. Dockery will occupy Ms. Dowell's former office at:

700 South Flower Street, Suite 1950
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Office: (213) 996-4400
Fax: (213) 996-4426

Electronic Systems Status Available

Did you know you can check the status of the Court's electronic systems? The operational status of *eFile*, webPACER, and VCIS can be viewed by clicking on "Electronic Systems Status" in the upper right-hand corner of the Court's web site at <http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov/>. In the event of system interruption, information about the particular system's status will be displayed.

Bankruptcy Filings Decrease for the First Seven Months of 2003

Bankruptcy filing activity has continued to decrease in the Central District for all types of filings, including petitions, most types of adversary complaints, and motions. Through the end of July 2003, bankruptcy case filings have decreased by 6%. Case filings have declined in every chapter with chapter 11 filings decreasing by 33% and chapter 13 filings decreasing by 24%. Chapter 7 filings show the least amount of decrease and have dropped by 3%. Divisional case filing statistics can be viewed on the Court's website at <http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov/cacb/statistics.nsf/Bankruptcy+Filings?OpenView>. The Court experienced a 7% decrease in the number of adversary complaints filed during 2003. Despite the overall decrease in adversary complaint filings, complaints to recover money/property have increased 7% during the same period. Motion filings have declined 10% through July 2003 with motions for relief (real property) showing the greatest decrease with a 25% drop.

	2003	2002	2003	% CHANGE
	JAN - JUL	TOTAL	ANNUAL ESTIMATE	02 VS 03
Case Filings:				
Chp. 7	39,841	69,228	67,322	-3%
Chp. 11	209	474	318	-33%
Chp. 13	6,545	13,617	10,298	-24%
Total	46,595	83,319	77,938	-6%
Complaints:				
Dischargeability	1,348	2,660	2,274	-15%
Recover Money/Property	1,414	2,650	2,839	7%
All Other	212	479	337	-30%
Total	2,974	5,789	5,450	-6%
Motions:				
Personal Property	3,994	6,828	6,779	0%
Real Property	4,191	8,973	6,760	-25%
Unlawful Detainer	544	1,042	894	-14%
Other RFS	306	589	521	-12%
Dismiss	5,931	10,440	9,833	-6%
Dismiss/Convert	165	287	266	-7%
Fees, Employment, Expenses	6,656	11,860	11,039	-7%
Total	21,787	40,019	36,092	-10%

For more information, visit our web site at www.cacb.uscourts.gov

Large/High Profile Cases Filed in the Last 24 Months

	Debtor Name	Case Number	Date Filed	Chapter	Judge	# of Related Cases	Asset Level (000,000's)	Liability Level (000,000's)
Largest Cases (over \$100 M Assets)	Consolidated Freightways	RS02-24284	09/03/02	11	MG	5	\$1,110	\$2,211
	Fountain View	LA01-39678	10/02/01	11	BB	19	\$708	\$4,674
	House2Home	SA01-19244	11/07/01	11	JB	17	\$297	\$278
	Daewoo	LA02-24411	05/16/02	11	BB		\$232	\$56
	USA SOGO INC	LA03-18660	04/18/02	7	SB		\$177	\$314
	Vista Hospital Systems	RS03-18901	06/10/03	11	DN		\$142	\$132
	Interdent Service Corporation	SA03-13594	05/09/03	11	JR	1	\$110	\$170
High Profile Cases*	OAN Servies, Inc, A Texas Corporation	ND02-13720	12/17/02	11	RR	2	\$94	\$124
	Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital	SV01-20903	11/26/01	11	AG		\$79	\$69
	Centis Inc	SA02-15865	07/31/02	11	JB	5	\$55	\$940
	Qualpro Corporation	SA02-19719	12/18/02	11	JB	6	\$47	\$218
	Parkview Community Hospital Medical Center	RS02-14989	03/25/02	11	DN		\$43	\$54
	Kushner	LA01-44828	11/21/01	11	SB	8	\$41	\$76
	Powerlift, Inc.	LA02-28533	06/26/02	11	BB		\$37	\$71
	Granada Hills Community Hospital	SV02-20579	11/26/02	11	AG		\$35	\$32
	Strouds Acquisition Corp	LA03-23620	05/20/03	11	ER		\$27	\$36
	Lux Corporation DBA: Mr. Rags	SA03-10697	01/28/03	11	JR		\$20	\$29
	Clothestime Stores, Inc.	SA03-14555	06/13/03	11	RA		\$15	\$49
	Athletes First, LLC	SA03-14549	06/13/03	11	RA		\$11	\$50
	Iskcon TV	SV 02-12373	03/15/02	11	AG	5	\$2	\$401
	In-Sync Interactive/ Monterey I	LA01-42617	10/30/01	11	ES	28	\$0.1	\$14.3

*based on a combination of Asset and Liability Levels, Number of creditors, high activity, and/or name recognition

Court News

is published by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California as an informational service for the practitioners and public of our Court.

Jon D. Ceretto
Executive Officer/Clerk

Michael E. Rotberg
Chief Deputy - Operations

Kathleen J. Campbell
Chief Deputy - Administration

Suggestions and comments are always welcome.
Please call (213) 894-3778 or e-mail us at Kathleen_Crosser@cacb.uscourts.gov.